

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for playback of recordings and communication with a remote database to obtain information about the recordings and provide at least textual data for a display unit, comprising:

- a recorded signal output device to reproduce a recorded signal from a recording;
- a video output to provide the textual data to the display unit;
- a memory to store a textual recording name of the recording and indicating data, obtained from said recorded signal output device, that can be used for identification of the recording;

- a communication device, occasionally in communication with the remote database, to obtain the textual recording name by sending the indicating data to the remote database; and

- a controller, coupled to said recorded signal output device, said video output, said memory and said communication device, to control said apparatus to play back the recording regardless of whether said communication device is in communication with the remote database, to repeatedly try to establish communication with the remote database unit communication is established, to query the remote database using the indicating data when communication is established and to supply the textual recording name of the recording from the remote database to said memory.

2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the communication device is a cellular two-way network interface.

3. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the communication device is an 802.11a network interface and said apparatus is mounted in an automobile.

4. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the communication device is an 802.11b network interface and said apparatus is mounted in an automobile.

5. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the communication device is a Bluetooth network interface and said apparatus is portable.